

## HOME, ITS PROBLEMS AND INTERESTS

## HOW TO CLOSE HOUSE

Every housewife who closes her home several weeks in the summer time knows the unpleasantness of returning to find everything coated with dust. And she retains distinct recollections of the real work entailed in the dusting and shining processes that must be gone through with.

A little trouble given to the packing away of certain things before the house is closed will make all the difference in the world when the time comes for re-opening the house. In the first place, the rugs should be aired and cleaned and then rolled and placed in a clean, dry closet where there are no moths. If there are carpets on the floor do not neglect to scrub them with camphor or some other moth preventive, for the weeks when the house is closed provide a harvest for the greedy little pests.

Bed and table linen should be put away into the linen closet and all the table and bureau covers nicely folded away. If there is any delicately colored upholstery, it should be covered with cretonne slips. If these things are done it will be a small matter to put the house in order again. Perhaps the most essential thing is to make sure that no sewer gas will get into the house while the pipes are unused. The best plan is to give all the pipes in the house a good washing out with hot suds to which has been added some washing soda, then let the water run through for some minutes. Pour glycerine into the pipes just before leaving. It is not readily absorbed and is an excellent preventive against the poisonous gas.

Gas and electric light fixtures if bound with cheesecloth or covered with any material that will keep out the dust should be in good condition when the family returns, for there is no moisture in the service pipes to cause discoloration or rust.

## A Woman's Reason.

The following is a woman's explanation as to her reasons for trying farming: I desire to go on a farm probably because I never lived on one.

As a rule a man's a fool; When it's hot he wants it cool, And when it's cool he wants it hot—Always wanting what is not.

My father and my mother's brother were born on the farm; but they left it as soon as they were old enough to act independently, so that, in my farming notions, I have no encouragement from relatives. They, however, had their way to make. I do not expect to make money on a farm—that is, not primarily—though I hope to make the farm support me (who am the proposed overseer) and all the other works on it.

A farmer who works his own farm is only, after all, an independent day-laborer, and no one can blame a young man for trying other methods of making a living. The case of some women with a small amount of capital is quite different, however. For instance, if a woman has a strong love for the fields and trees and animals; if every living, growing thing is interesting to her; if she has had a college education; if she has a good deal of a good portion of it, knows, besides, what office work in a city is, and is thoroughly acquainted with the ways of the life, she is in a position, I fancy, thoroughly to enjoy a real home on a farm. All the luxuries which the city implies. It is only people of experience who can fully appreciate the country and what it can give. The country man holds many things cheap because he never paid directly for them.

To be sure, the farm must have all the modern conveniences, such as telephone and rural free delivery besides; and, if the woman expects to live on it, the greater the better. It should have good railroad connection with some large city. The woman whom we are considering expects to do the housework, except in cases of emergency; but she should be capable of doing a little work and is trying to become so. What a generous life such a woman can lead on a farm on an income which would support her but meagerly in the city! This is my theory. When I have put it into practice, I hope to be able to substantiate it. From L. H. Bailey's "Why Some Boys Take to Farming," in the Century.

## "Female."

## How Mahogany Became Fashionable

Everyone knows how effective and handsome mahogany is when used for good furniture, but few of us know how its value was first discovered.

In the latter part of the seventeenth century a London physician had a brother engaged in trade in the West Indies who on one occasion brought home several logs of mahogany as ballast. The doctor was building a house, and his brother suggested that the logs would serve for ceiling beams. Acting on the proposal, the doctor gave orders to the workmen to use the mahogany, but their tools were not equal to the task of cutting the hard wood, and the logs were put out of the way in a corner in the garden.

Some time afterward the head carpenter tried to make a box from the wood, but was unsuccessful with ordinary tools. He told the doctor, who was interested in the baffling timber, and ordered heavier tools to be made to work it with, says Home Notes. When this was done, and a box was at last made and polished, it was so handsome that a bureau was made from the depleted logs, and this was declared by experts to be so superior to the other furniture-making woods that the craze for mahogany set in, and furniture made from it became highly popular. The then Duchess of Buckingham fostered the craze in the fashionable world.

## Hints on Preserving

Glass fruit jars, not necessarily airtight, are better than large vessels for holding preserves.

Peach preserves are universally popular, and are most attractive, and conveniently served when halved. If the almond flavor is liked, remove the kernels from the half of the fruit first prepared; chop fine and simmer in water until the remainder of the fruit is ready. Use the strained liquor for making the syrup.

A second-rate jelly can be made by covering the parings, cores, and seeds of quinces with cold water, simmering slowly, covered for two hours, and then straining off the liquor, and proceeding in the usual way.

## CASTORIA

For Infants and Children.

The Kind You Have Always Bought

Bears the Signature of J. C. Ayer & Co.

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## Smoke Gray Is Fashionable

Smoke gray is one of the fashionable shades of the moment. It is really an outcome of last year's mole gray, and is often worn with the single touch of strong color taking the form of a great American beauty rose.

## PARKER'S HAIR BALSAM

Promotes the growth of the hair and gives it the lustre and silkiness of youth. When the hair is gray or faded, it BRINGS BACK THE YOUTHFUL COLOR. It prevents dandruff and hair falling and keeps the scalp clean and healthy.

## A DEAR LITTLE BABY DRESS.

A remnant of embroidery will make a frock of this description very nicely. The width may be used for the wee skirt and four strips will make the sides, with small rucks over the shoulders. Front and back is plain material tucked to yoke depth. Buttons and buttonholes are added in back where a closing is effected. Embroidery also serves for the frill around little white lawn cap.

## System in the Household

There are tricks in all trades and now that housekeeping is getting to be an art every woman should study how to perfect her system.

For the housekeeper who does her own work the early morning hours are the ones to conjure with. Then rest or perform some light work that does not require much exertion.

While the fire is made for breakfast, make a good supply of tea, strain and after cooling put in the ice box. Potatoes may be boiled for salad or creaming for dinner, eggs boiled for dining, hominy, oatmeal cooked and left in the double boiler ready for a few moments reheating the next morning, or for turning out into molds to be served cold or sliced and fried.

Farina, cornstarch, plain or in fruit combinations, may be cooked and poured into individual molds or cups. When cold and firm these make a decorative dessert, turned out on a pretty plate or saucer, with a row of blackberries or strawberries around the form. Many of the ordinary vegetables can be cooked, then reheated or served cold. String beans, peas, asparagus, beets, artichokes, spinach, are all delicious, while turnips, carrots, parsnips, cabbage, cauliflower, kale, squash, and onions may be quickly seasoned and recooked in a great variety of tempting ways. Turnips and carrots are especially nice sliced or leed after the preliminary boiling, then glazed delicately in butter, or drippings and butter, half and half, with a sprinkle of sugar added to assist in the browning. Then add brown stock to moisten, simmering a few moments until thoroughly heated.

## Why Fruits Spoil

Many a housewife is discouraged if, after using all possible care in canning, having sound fruit, perfect cans, rubbers and tops, the contents spoil. She does not know to what to attribute her failure, but very often it lies in the fact that air bubbles were allowed to remain in the fruit canned. To prevent this stir the fruit gently with a silver knife or spoon after it has been poured into the jars, then settle it by shaking the jars a little and fill full again, giving the fruit another stir before placing the top on. Extra precaution may be taken by brushing the outside edges of the covers with paraffin.

When fruit jars, rubbers and tops are used a second time they should be thoroughly washed and tested. If the covers are bent around the edges in removing them from the jars the dents should be taken out by placing each cover on a flat surface and gently pounding the edge with a small hammer until perfectly smooth. Fill the jars with hot water, put on the rubbers and screw down the top as tightly as possible, then invert the cans and let them remain so over night. If in the morning any have been found to leak try turning them up again, but if they will not then stand the test discard them. After removing the covers it would be well not to mix them, as they may not fit so well.

## The 'Broidered Posy.

Some beautiful all-over embroidery is being done on the heels of hand-embroidered blouses, and a new trick for those hand-embroidered blouses is the scattering of the design—like little blossoms dropped at intervals—instead of the more stereotyped set design.

## THE LAXATIVE OF KNOWN QUALITY



There are two classes of remedies; those of known quality and which are permanently beneficial in effect, acting gently, in harmony with nature, when nature needs assistance; and another class, composed of preparations of unknown, uncertain and inferior character, acting temporarily, but injuriously, as a result of forcing the natural functions unnecessarily. One of the most exceptional of the remedies of known quality and excellence is the ever pleasant Syrup of Figs, manufactured by the California Fig Syrup Co., which represents the active principles of plants, known to act most beneficially, in a pleasant syrup, in which the wholesome Californian blue figs are used to contribute their rich, yet delicate, fruity flavor. It is the remedy of all remedies to sweeten and refresh and cleanse the system gently and naturally, and to assist one in overcoming constipation and the many ills resulting therefrom. Its active principles and quality are known to physicians generally, and the remedy has therefore met with their approval, as well as with the favor of many millions of well informed persons who know of their own personal knowledge and from actual experience that it is a most excellent laxative remedy. We do not claim that it will cure all manner of ills, but recommend it for what it really represents, a laxative remedy of known quality and excellence, containing nothing of an objectionable or injurious character.

There are two classes of purchasers; those who are informed as to the quality of what they buy and the reasons for the excellence of articles of exceptional merit, and who do not lack courage to go elsewhere when a dealer offers an imitation of any well known article; but, unfortunately, there are some people who do not know, and who allow themselves to be imposed upon. They cannot expect its beneficial effects if they do not get the genuine remedy.

To the credit of the druggists of the United States be it said that nearly all of them value their reputation for professional integrity and the good will of their customers too highly to offer imitations of the

### Genuine—Syrup of Figs

manufactured by the California Fig Syrup Co., and in order to buy the genuine article and to get its beneficial effects, one has only to note, when purchasing, the full name of the Company—California Fig Syrup Co.—plainly printed on the front of every package. Price, 50c. per bottle. One size only.

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## Eat Fresh Fruit.

That fruit is a wholesome article of diet is of course, a generally accepted fact, but the important place which it takes through the medicinal effect it exerts upon the entire system has only recently become well known. The medicinal effect is not direct, but the fruit encourages the natural functions by which the severe remedial processes which they aid are brought about.

The fruits which come under the head of laxatives are the orange, figs, tamarinds, prunes, mulberries, dates, peaches and plums. The astringents, pomegranates, cranberries, blackberries, raspberries, quinces, pears, wild cherries and medlars. The diuretics are gooseberries, red and white currants, pumpkins and melons. Lemons, limes and apples are stomach sedatives.

Taken in the morning early an orange acts very decidedly as a laxative, sometimes amounting to a purgative, and may be generally relied on. Pomegranates are very astringent and relieve sore throat and uvula. The bark of the root, in the form of a decoction, is a good anthelmintic. Figs, split open, form an excellent poultice for boils and small abscesses. Strawberries and lemons, locally applied, are of some service in the removal of tartar from the teeth.

Apples are correctives, useful in nausea, and even seasickness. They immediately relieve the nausea due to smoking. Bitter almonds contain hydrocyanic acid, and are useful in a simple cough; but they frequently produce a sort of nettle rash. The persimmon is palatable when ripe, but the green fruit is highly astringent, containing much tannin. The oil of coconut has been recommended as a substitute for cod liver oil, and is much used in Germany for phthisis. Barbberries are very agreeable to fever patients in the form of a drink. Grapes and raisins are nutritive and demulcent, and are much used in the sick chamber.

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